



HELD UP.—Life. Copyright, 1896, by Mitchell & Miller.

Practical Jokes of a Clever Ventriloquist.

Charles A. Hartley Writes in the New York Journal of His Amusing Experiences.

Hammerstein's big Olympia was thronged the other evening when I strolled in. Not a seat was to be had at the Olympia that night. While awaiting for the curtain to go up I amused myself at the expense of a part of the audience standing about me.

"Twelve o'clock," shouted Ward. "I can't hear you." "Twelve o'clock," shrieked Ward, and he rapped on the pipe as if to restore to the wires some dormant voltaic energy.

FUN WITH A TAILOR.

H. Lundstedt shares his tailor shop with the little button store of L. Lundstedt, on William street, near Beekman.

MISS "A CASE OF PINTS."

John Bertram is the proprietor of the big entertainment hall at the corner of Fulton street and Brooklyn avenue, Brooklyn. There is a telephone connected with his place. I had just concluded an entertainment given by the Bravura council, Royal Arcanum, and was the guest of honor at a pleasant repast given by its members.

Pitied Him.

Mrs. Witherby—Last night the man next door made an awful mistake. He got into our house instead of his own, and I thought at first it was you.

Scientific Rheumatism Cured.

L. Wagner, wholesale druggist, Richmond, Va., says: "I had a fearful attack of Sciatic Rheumatism, was laid up almost two months; was fortunate enough to get Myotic Care for Rheumatism. This cured me after Doctor's prescriptions had failed to have any effect. I have also heard of fine results from others who had used it."

A READ SPEAKING TUBE.

Mr. F. N. Banger is the owner of a hotel bearing his name on upper Lehigh avenue. His place has been the scene of many ludicrous episodes.

HISTORY OF EARLY POSTAL FACILITIES

The Mail Delivery in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

REMINISCENCES OF OLD LUZERNE

History of the Wilkes-Barre Post-office—Prominent Men Who Have Served as Postmasters—The Means Employed to Deliver Letters at the Opening of the Present Century—Old Families Recalled—The New Office.

From the Wilkes-Barre Leader.

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FIRST POSTMASTER.

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REICHARD'S APPOINTMENT.

Mr. Reichard's appointment was not due to personal solicitation, but to satisfy the demands of the occasion. As soon as Colonel Howard B. Wright was elected to congress, a number of aspirants for the postmaster's office sprung up, and the friends of each waged relentless war upon the other. As the best way out of the difficulty, Congressman Wright suggested that Mr. Reichard accept the appointment as a man satisfactory to all elements and he did so. He served one year, and resigned. He had previously founded the large grocery in the northern part of the city which still bears his name, and duties involved in its management precluded the possibility of serving as postmaster and he sent in his resignation. At this time the office remained in the old building on West Market street, used by Stephen Butler, but when Jacob Sorter, or Ende Jake, as he was familiarly called, was appointed in 1854 to succeed Mr. Reichard, he removed the office to the site now occupied by E. H. Collier's saloon on Public Square and in 1857 to the American House, now the Bristol House on Public Square. Mr. Sorter served as postmaster until 1858 and retired, dying in 1864. He is survived by his widow who lives at 125 Jackson street. E. H. Collier was appointed for the second time, the latter continued in office until 1861, when S. M. Barton succeeded him. During Mr. Barton's term, the office was removed from the Bristol House to a building on Public Square, which was later burned down. At present, E. H. Collier succeeded Mr. Barton and served from 1862 to 1867, when he was succeeded by Peter Pusch. The latter served two years. He was the father of our townsmen, Arthur Pusch, of the Erie Hotel, and Joseph Pusch, who died in this city twenty-two years ago.

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office on South Main street, about where the Boston Store stands. He was succeeded by Daniel Collins. Collins kept a small water engine, and carries fishbait on the site now occupied by Arthur Featherstone, on the north side of Public Square, formerly Billy McLaughlin's, and he is described by old acquaintances as having been an obliging old gentleman, yet not too fond of work. The letters were kept in a little square frame filled with pigeon holes, each bearing an initial. The postmaster invariably occupied a backless chair with sheep skin bottom, so situated that he could receive or deliver mail without rising. The stage arrived daily from Easton and New York, another from Harrisburg and another from Tunkhannock. Collins continued as postmaster until 1841, when A. O. Cahoon was appointed.

Mr. Cahoon when receiving his commission, immediately moved the office to a location about where John Hughes' merchant tailoring house stands on West Market street today. The new postmaster made many improvements, chief among them being the introduction of private boxes. These were provided in Harrisburg and with a glass front made quite an attractive appearance. Mr. Cahoon served until 1843 when J. P. LeClere was appointed. LeClere again moving the office back to Public Square, near the old office, formerly occupied by Collins. After serving two years, LeClere was relieved of the postmastership and E. B. Collings, son of Daniel, succeeded him. The office was removed to the site now occupied by Lewis Brown's grocery store, Collings was a very popular postmaster. One sister, Mrs. A. J. Baldwin lives in Harrisburg, at present; three others, Mrs. Charles Dougherty, mother of Colonel C. Bow Dougherty, Mrs. John B. Davidson and Miss Eliza Collings live in this city, and Mrs. Kaub, a grand-daughter at Danville. The main members of the Collings' family, besides the latter state politicians, Samuel P., a brother of the postmaster, being a vigorous editorial writer on the Farmer later the Luzerne Union, and now the Leader, a staunch Democratic paper, and later he was consul to Algiers.

Succeeding Collings came Stephen Butler, son of Colonel Zebulon Butler, who commanded the Continental forces on that memorable 3rd of July, 1776, at Forty Fort, and whose bones have mouldered to dust near the Wyoming monument. He assumed the duties of postmaster in 1849, and continued in office until 1853. During his administration the office occupied a building which stood where Shupp's jewelry store stands on West Market street today, and is well remembered by the older residents. He was the father of J. E. Butler, the West Market street stationer. Besides the latter, Postmaster Butler is survived by the following daughters: Mrs. Thomas S. Murray, of Trenton, N. J.; and Mrs. Strawberry, of Danville. The latter's husband was one of the most prominent surgeons of his time and was a military doctor in the northern States army. Mr. Butler was relieved of the postmastership in 1853 and John Reichard, father of our townsmen, Colonel George N. Reichard, succeeded him.

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Advertisement for Castoria, featuring the signature of Charles H. Fletcher and the text 'SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA'.

Large directory listing for 'Directory of Wholesale and Retail CITY AND SUBURBAN REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESS HOUSES', including various categories like Art Studio, Athletic and Daily Papers, and Grocers.